

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 01065 231724Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W

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R 231722Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7536

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF FIGHTING AT KHYBER PASS

1. BRITISH HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY REPORTS RELATING TO RATHER LURID STORIES ("AFGHAN TRIBESMEN STORM KHYBER PASS ARMY OUTPOSTS"; "TENSION GROWS AT THE KHYBER PASS") FILED BY PETER GILL FROM LARKANA, PAKISTAN, AND BY ANTHONY MASCARENHAS FROM KABUL LAST WEEK.

2. GILL'S STORY FROM PAKISTAN SAYS 500 AFGHAN TRIBESMEN OVERWHELMED TWO PAKISTANI OUTPOSTS IN TIRAH AREA NEAR KHYBER PASS, BUT RAIDERS WERE DRIVEN BACK BY TROOP REINFORCEMENTS--AND NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THIS MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES SINCE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT CAME TO POWER 18 MONTHS AGO AND BHUTTO CALLED "SERIES OF MEETINGS" TO DISCUSS SITUATION.

3. MASCARENHAS IN KABUL SAYS PAKISTANI ALLEGATIONS OF INCIDENT ARE INDIGNANTLY DENIED BY AFGHANS. GOVERNMENT
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PAGE 02 LONDON 01065 231724Z

THERE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT A BAND OF 200 BALUCHI MEN,

WOMEN, AND CHILDREN WHO CROSSED INTO AFGHANISTAN IN SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES AND DEEP SNOW, FLEEING PAKISTAN ARMY.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INCLUDED AS INFO ADDRESSEE IF ANY REPORTING DEVELOPS ON THIS OR RELATED SUBJECTS.

SPIERS

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